

Appl. No. 10/770,926
Amdt. dated May 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The retractable leash device is comprised of a housing with a handle, a reel in the housing, a leash wound around the reel and extendable from the housing, and a spring biasing the reel to retract the leash. A momentary unidirectional lock in the housing is comprised of a hinged and spring loaded lever with an inner end biased away from the reel, and an outer end projecting from the handle. A hinged and spring loaded ratchet adjacent the inner end of the lever is biased by the lever to a normally disengaged position away from the reel. When the lever is pressed, its inner end is moved to pivot the ratchet into engagement with unidirectional teeth on the reel to prevent rotation in the release direction, but permit rotation in the retract direction. A toggle lock positioned in the housing is comprised of a sliding bar with an inner end movable between an unlocked position away from the reel, and a locked position between cogs on the reel. A geared rotation damper is engaged with a gear around the reel to limit retraction speed. A clip on the housing is comprised of a notch in the housing, and a gate spanning the opening of the notch for clipping around the leash.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Appl. No. 10/770,926
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DRAWING REFERENCE NUMERALS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10. Housing | 11. Handle |
| 12. Leash | 13. Momentary unidirectional lock |
| 14. Toggle Lock | 15. Clip |
| 16. Slot | 17. Notch |
| 18. Gate | 19. First End |
| 20. Second End | 21. Reel |
| 22. Spring | 23. Inner End |
| 24. Spring | 25. Outer End |
| 26. Ratchet | 27. Spring |
| 28. Ramp | 29. Tooth |
| 30. Outer End <u>Lever</u> | 31. Sliding Bar |
| 32. Inner End | 33. Cog |
| 34. Rotation damper | 35. Gear |
| 36. Fixed Object | 37. Fixed Object |
| 38. Housing | 39. Clip |
| 40. Notch | 41. Gate |
| 42. Housing | 43. Clip |
| 44. Handle | 45. Grip |
| 46. Leash Securing Device | 47. Teethed Slot |

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Momentary unidirectional lock 13 is comprised of a hinged lever 30 with an inner end 23 biased by a spring 24 from reel 21, and an outer end 24 25 projecting from handle 11. A hinged ratchet 26 adjacent inner end 23 of lever 14 30 is biased by lever 14 30 to a normally disengaged position away from reel 21. Ratchet 26 is biased by a spring 27 towards reel 21, but spring 27 is weaker than spring 24, so that ratchet 26 is biased to the disengaged position against spring 27. A ramp 28 is positioned on an inner side of ratchet 26 for engaging directional teeth 29 around reel 21 that are angled toward ratchet 26.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An alternative embodiment of the leash device is shown in Fig. 7. It is comprised of a dog's head shaped housing 38. A clip 39 is comprised of an open mouth shaped notch 40 with a hinged gate 41 pivoted to the upper part of notch 40. Another alternative embodiment shown in Fig. 8 is comprised of a housing 42 and separate clip 43 attached to a hole 44, such as the loop defined by a handle 45. Clip 43 may be comprised of a karabiner.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this example, leash securing device 46 is comprised of a ~~teethed~~ toothed slot 47 inside notch 17 within which leash 12 is wedged. Alternatively, leash securing device 46 may be comprised of a spring loaded grip which grips leash 12, holes in leash 12 and a pin attached to housing for mating with one of the holes, etc.